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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Report of the Sixth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 60/19 of 23 November 2005.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 27th and 28th meetings, on 12 and 19 November 2007. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (see A/C.6/62/SR.27 and 28).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/503).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/62/L.12

5. At the 27th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law" (A/C.6/62/L.12) and orally revised operative paragraph 1 thereof by deleting the words "as well as the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider

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Appreciation of International Law" after the words "report of the Secretary-General".

6. At its 28th meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/62/L.12, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

7. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

Recalling its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which it established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Noting the significant contribution of the Programme of Assistance to a better knowledge of international law for more than four decades, as envisaged in the above-mentioned resolution,

Considering, nevertheless, that much remains to be done in this field,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance[1] and the views of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, which are contained in that report,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by States at the bilateral level to provide assistance in the teaching and study of international law,

Convinced, nevertheless, that States and international organizations and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international organizations and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

[1] A/62/503.

1. *Approves* the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in particular those designed to achieve the best possible results in the administration of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law within a policy of maximum financial restraint;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out in 2008 and 2009 the activities specified in his report, including the provision of:

(a) A number of international law fellowships in both 2008 and 2009, to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded at the request of Governments of developing countries;

(b) A minimum of one scholarship in both 2008 and 2009 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions made specifically to this fellowship fund;

(c) Subject to the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance, assistance in the form of a travel grant for one participant from each developing country, who would be invited to possible regional courses to be organized in 2008 and 2009;

and to finance the above activities from provisions in the regular budget, when appropriate, as well as from voluntary financial contributions earmarked for each of the activities concerned, which would be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 18 to 20 below;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his constructive efforts to promote training and assistance in international law within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2006 and 2007, in particular for the organization of the forty-second[2] and forty-third[3] sessions of the International Law Seminar, held at Geneva in 2006 and 2007, respectively, and for the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat related to the International Law Fellowship Programme and to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, carried out, respectively, through its Codification Division and its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the various components of the Programme of Assistance, candidates from countries willing to bear the entire cost of such participation;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider the relative advantages of using available resources and voluntary contributions for regional, subregional or national courses, as against courses organized within the United Nations system;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary resources to the programme budget for the Programme of Assistance for the next and the future bienniums with a view to maintaining the effectiveness of the Programme of Assistance;

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[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/61/10), chap. XIII, sect. F.

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/62/10), chap. X, sect. E.

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs, and strongly encourages their continued publication;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications;

9. *Also welcomes* the placing on the Internet of the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*,[4] the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*[5] and other legal information, as well as the expansion of the website of the International Law Commission[6] to include all its documentation;

10. *Further welcomes* the establishment of the website on the Programme of Assistance;[7]

11. *Notes* the need to safeguard and preserve the audiovisual history of legal developments within the United Nations, which constitutes an invaluable resource for promoting a better knowledge of international law;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts made by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs to revitalize, within available resources, the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and urges States to make voluntary contributions to enable the Codification Division to develop and maintain the Library;

13. *Welcomes* the training and technical assistance activities in international law undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs in the framework of the Programme of Assistance, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages the continuation of such activities within available resources;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for its participation in the Programme of Assistance through the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General;

15. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for its participation in the Programme of Assistance through the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General;

16. *Further expresses its appreciation* to The Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with the Academy courses;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of The Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes

[4] Available from www.un.org/law/riaa.
[5] Available from www.un.org/law/ICJsummaries.
[6] www.un.org/law/ilc.
[7] www.un.org/law/programmeofassistance.

of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme of Assistance or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

19. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and to interested organizations and individuals to make voluntary contributions, inter alia, for the International Law Seminar, the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, institutions and individuals that have made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

20. *Urges* in particular all Governments to make voluntary contributions for the organization of regional courses in international law by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, especially with a view to covering the amount needed for the financing of the daily subsistence allowance for up to twenty-five participants in each regional course, thus alleviating the burden on prospective host countries and making it possible to continue to organize the regional courses;

21. *Decides* to appoint twenty-five Member States, six from Africa, five from Asia, three from Eastern Europe, five from Latin America and the Caribbean and six from Western European and other States, as members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance for a period of four years beginning on 1 January 2008;[8]

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during 2008 and 2009 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the execution of the Programme of Assistance in subsequent years;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".

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[8] The following States have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance: Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.